

Exeter Historic District Commission

July 16, 2015

Final Minutes

Call meeting to order: Patrick Gordon called the meeting to order at 7 pm in the Nowak Room of the Exeter Town Office Building.

Members present: Patrick Gordon, Chairman, Julie Gilman, Selectwoman, Pam Gjettum, Clerk, and Nicole Martineau

New Business: The application of Gregory Colling for replacement of the garage door and new signage at 8 High Street. Gregory asked the commission which one he should start with, the garage door or the sign. Patrick stated he should start with the sign. Gregory stated that he has lived at 8 High Street for the past year and he has been restoring the house. He stated that he is an architect. What he is proposing to do is restore the side bracket that is on the building and hang a sign. He just got his license a couple of months ago. It will be a small black sign with gold leaf letters. The side bracket is rod iron and it also has two short chains that attach the sign. All of this was already there. Gregory brought photos for the commission to see. He is also requesting to put up a historical plaque. Julie asked if he could tell the commission about the materials. The sign is made out of medium density overlay board. Pine molding with create a picture frame around the sign. The sign is 19" wide by 12" high. Gregory is planning to fabricate the sign himself and then give it to the sign painter. The top of the sign will have a little copper top on it to keep water off. Gregory stated that when he submitted his application, he was told he needed to read the zoning ordinance because the sign bottom needs to be 8 ft. He is proposing to put it back to where it was. It is a little bit lower, 7 ft. 6".

Nicole asked Gregory if there was any way to shorten the chain to get more height for the sign. Patrick then stated that he is not sure the commission can approve this application because of the zoning ordinance. Gregory stated that he could reduce the height of it by taking some links out of the chain. Nicole also stated that the commission could approve the sign but not the mounting of it. The height is an issue. Gregory stated that there was something hanging there before. He is not sure, but perhaps an attorney. Nicole stated that the issue is just the height. They have all the other information that the commission needs. She asked Gregory in the interim if he could determine whether it will be painted or vinyl adhered system. This would be very helpful. Patrick will speak with the Code Enforcement Officer to find out what can be done.

Nicole made a motion to table this application so the commission can look into it and get back to Gregory.

Gregory then spoke about the garage doors. He said that the existing garage doors have been removed. They were 12 panels and he replaced them with 9 panels. He wanted flat panels and he did not know they would give him large panels. He stated that this will be a secure door for now. He stated that the sill was redone for the garage and it looks nice and neat. He is also putting in a new stop around the garage door opening. Nicole asked if the panels were wood or fiberglass. Gregory stated that they are wood. Patrick wanted to clarify the number of panels on the doors. He stated that Gregory was calling them 9 panels, but Patrick stated that he counts four across. Gregory apologized and stated there were

12 panels and the existing is 24. Gregory stated it previously was a 24 panel door, and now it is a 12 panel one. He also stated that the previous garage door was not maintained and was all split.

Patrick asked if Gregory would like to split his application to remove the sign portion of it and just proceed with the door. Gregory stated that it was up to the commission. It is a done deal. Patrick then asked for a motion to accept the application. Nicole made a motion to accept the application, removing the sign portion of it. Pam seconded. All were in favor and application accepted. Patrick stated that the commission has the information they need to make a decision to approve the application. He stated at this point that it is a public hearing and he asked if anyone was for or against. There were none.

Nicole made a motion to approve the application for the garage door as it stands. Pam seconded. All were in favor and application approved.

Patrick stated that he will speak to Doug Eastman about the signage to find out how to proceed with that portion of Gregory's application. He will then address Gregory with an e-mail.

Gregory then asked about the historic sign. The commission did not have any application for this sign. Gregory would like to get it on the house because next year is its 200th anniversary. Nicole asked when he submitted his request for this sign and he said it was part of the application. Julie stated that the commission could ask the Heritage Commission about this sign. Pam is present and a member of the Heritage Commission. Nicole then asked if the commission had to formerly accept/approve all of this. Pam stated that all the commission needs to do is sign off on it. No motion is required.

Next is the application of Sara Kotila (SK Massage & Bodywork) for new signage at 27 Front Street. The applicant was not present so Patrick asked for a motion to table this application. Nicole made a motion to table the application of Sara Kotila at 27 Front Street. Pam seconded. All were in favor and application tabled.

Next is the application of Cindy and Robert Giusti (The Offbeat Owl Paint Studio) for new signage at 143 Water Street. Bob spoke requesting new signage for their paint studio. He stated that his wife is a graphic designer and paint artist. He stated that the intent of the property is that it will be multifaceted. There will be paint lessons. It will be a place where a child can paint a train or a bird house. Bob stated that you will be able to paint on wood, as well as on glass. They intend to have special nights for adults to come, as well as certain days for senior citizens. Perhaps even a special night for high school students. Bob stated that the sign will be hung on an existing structure because the brackets are already there. Cindy stated that they will measure the sign to make sure it is the right height. She will have her sign installer come out and measure exactly where it should be as for the eight feet high. Patrick asked if Cindy was painting the sign herself or having someone else do it. She stated that she will be doing it. She designed it on the computer and it will be printed on PVC. It is a waterproof PVC and it will be two sided and have a wooden frame around it. Nicole asked if it was going to be a stained wood around it or painted. Cindy stated it would be stained. Patrick asked if the PVC was going to be black. Cindy stated it was going to be white. Patrick stated that the only thing the commission would be asking about the sign is the height of it.

Nicole made a motion to accept the application. Pam seconded. All were in favor and application accepted. Julie made a motion to approve the sign as presented with the condition that the sign height is consistent with the zoning ordinance 5.7.3J at 8 feet above the ground. Pam seconded. All were in favor and application approved.

Other Business: Approval of June 18, 2015 Minutes. Julie made a motion to table the approval of the minutes. Nicole seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were tabled.

With no further business, Nicole made a motion to adjourn. Julie seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick
Recording Secretary